

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 16-42, without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims similar or identical to claims 16-42 in one or more applications claiming priority to the instant application.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that each of the components has at least one contact surface area that is non-distinguishable by the other components. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, for example, on page 7, lines 25-28.

Claims 1-9 are now pending for examination.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶1 for failing to comply with the written description requirement.

At the outset, Applicants disagree with the Patent Office's assertion that "non-predeterministic" does not find support in the specification. It is believed that this term finds at least inherent support in the specification, for example, on page 7, lines 25-28. However, solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process, Applicants have substituted the term "non-predeterministic" with the phrase "at least one of the components having at least two contact surface areas that are not distinguishable from each other by another components" in claim 1. This amendment is supported by the specification, for example, on page 7, lines 25-28, and in the drawings. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. Claims 2-9 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and are believed to be allowable for at least these reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is also respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

As discussed above with respect to §112, ¶1, Applicants have substituted the term "non-predeterministic" with a different phrase, solely for the purpose of expediting the patent

application process. Applicants thus respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-9 be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bowden et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,507,989 ("Bowden").

Applicants do not see where in Bowden there is disclosure or suggestion of a self-assembling system that includes at least one component having at least two contact surface areas that are not distinguishable from each other by another component. In Bowden, for example, in Fig. 4, the components have contact surface areas that are distinguishable from each other. For instance, surface 92 is complementary to surface 96, surface 98 is complementary to surface 104, surface 100 is complementary to surface 112, etc. These surfaces are distinguishable, e.g., surface 92 is not complementary to surface 98 or surface 100. Accordingly, it is believed that Bowden nowhere discloses or suggests non-distinguishable contact surface areas, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-9 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representatives at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time.

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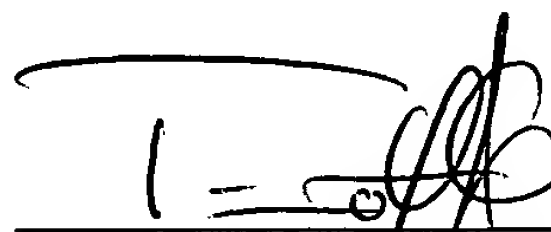
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If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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